General Education Program Committee
Minutes
7 July 2004

Present: Chuck Booth, Richard Jones-Bamman, Margaret E. Martin, David Pellegrini, Delar Singh, Carol Williams, Bob Wolf, Nancy Salter (ex-officio)

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 30 June 2004 (Pellegrini, Booth) Accepted as presented.

Old Business

2. Departmental Survey
   David Pellegrini and Bob Wolf reported on the first draft of report on the Departmental Survey. The data generally indicates that departments are relatively satisfied with their placement in the general education sections and generally satisfied with their level of effort and involvement in the core. Very few departments want to substantially increase or limit their involvement, even with an increase in resources. Richard and Bob will continue to review the data and prepare a report for Committee review.

3. GEPC Web Page Development
   Faculty Survey
   Bob Wolf reported that although new survey responses have been received, the response rate is still very low. He credits this rate with the length and complexity of the survey and problems with the interface (the survey connection crashes, cancel button too easy to hit, etc.). Maggie and Mike Adams spoke with Kevin about some of these problems. Kevin was able to eliminate the cancel button, but the survey software cannot be modified to permit automatic saves or eliminate problems with the browser cache. Bob suggests that we break the survey into at least two sections and eliminate some of the more vague open-ended questions. He will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

   Electronic Forum
   There is still a very low response rate to the question posted on the forum. Committee members are anxious to post new threads on the forum. The language for two new threads was devised. These are questions about the charge to create an innovative and distinctive core and about how our core should serve the needs of transfer students. Three new threads are proposed to be developed at the next meeting. These include questions about: (1) For what students should the core be designed (Admissions and trend data are necessary for this); (2) Should theme based courses be included in the core; and (3) How should the general education reform proposal deal with faculty needs and interests.

4. Model Development
   Delar Singh and Richard Jones-Bamman discussed their research regarding models for general education reform. The web sites of model curricula posted by Richard have aroused some faculty discussion. Richard and Delar indicate that there are no simple schema for categorizing the approaches to general education, and suggest that posting web sites without placing them in context would do a disservice to the discussion. They were encouraged to continue posting relevant web sites within the discussions on the electronic forum and then to re-post the web addresses in the models section of the GEPC web page.

5. Summer Events and Departmental Liaisons - tabled

6. Fall Planning and Timeline - tabled
   Fall faculty meeting presentation
   Lunch and Learn
   Consultants
   Other

New Business
Next Meeting: 14 July 2004 Location: Webb 258

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Martin